

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 IO-10 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 /078 W

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O P 241645Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1905

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

USMISSION UN

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP PINS GR US

SUBJECT: DEATH OF R S WELCH - FURTHER MEDIA COVERAGE

REF: ATHENS 10144

1. AFTERNOON PRESS DEC 24 ALSO CARRIED PROMINENTLY AS PRINCIPAL STORY THE ASSASSINATION OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR, RICHARD S. WELCH. IN ADDITION, REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCASTS OF GREEK RADIO CONTINUED TO FEATURE THE WELCH MURDER AS THE LEAD ITEM.

2. WHILE MORNING PRESS COVERAGE STRESSED FACTS OF THE
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MURDER, AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS FEATURED INTERVIEWS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES OF MURDER SITE, BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND ITEMS AND SPECULATIVE PIECES. AFTERNOON PAPERS ALL CARRIED GOG STATEMENT ISSUED PREVIOUS EVENING (ATHENS 10116) AS WELL AS TEXT OF EMBASSY STATEMENT (ATHENS 10113), AND PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT FROM VAIL, COLORADO. TEXTS OF STATEMENTS BY OPPOSITION LEADERS MAVROS (CENTER UNION/ NEW FORCES), PAPANDREOU (PASOK) AND KIRKOS (COMMUNIST PARTY INTERIOR) WERE ALSO FEATURED (SEPTTEL).

3.MOST AFTERNOON PAPERS IDENTIFY THE DECEASED AS HAVING BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH CIA. IN PROVOCATIVE DISPLAY OF GROSS BAD TASTE IN AFTERMATH OF WELCH MURDER, BOTH TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) AND APOYEVMATINI REPRINT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ATHENS NEWS STORY OF LAST MONTH (ATHENS 9252) WHICH IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF ALLEGED CIA AGENTS NOW IN GREECE--WITH THESE REPRINTS REPEATING SOME OF THEIR NAMES AND IN A FEW INSTANCES THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS. (DCM IS PROTESTING TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS LAMBRIAS ABOUT TONE AND CONTENT OF AFTERNOON PRESS COVERAGE, STATING THAT REHASH OF ATHENS NEWS STORY COULD ENDANGER OTHER AMERICAN LIVES.)

4. VRADYNI'S (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) FRONT-PAGE STORY WAS INTRODUCED WITH HEADLINE "THREE MASKED MEN KILLED THE CIA CHIEF IN GREECE." TA NEA HERALDED "THREE SWARTHY FOREIGNERS EXECUTED THE CIA CHIEF;" ATHENAIKI (LEFT OF CENTER, PRO-PASOK)) "A DENSE MYSTERY COVERS ASSASSINATION OF THE AMERICAN 'SPECIAL' ADVISOR: SUSPICIONS CONCERNING PROVOCATION"; APOYEVMATINI "SEARCH HELD THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY: MURDERERS OF AMERICAN AGENT RICHARD WELCH NOT APPREHENDED:" MOST PAPERS ALSO REFER TO AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY WHICH SPECULATES THAT WELCH'S MURDER MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH RECENT KIDNAPPING OF OPEC MINISTERS IN VIENNA. KUBISCH

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, PINS, GR, US, (WELCH, RICHARD S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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